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MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP			EXAMINER	
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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/663,995
Filing Date: September 17, 2003
Appellant(s): LEE ET AL.

MAILED
SEP 18 2007
Group 3700

Mark R. Kresloff
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed August 3, 2007 appealing from the Office action mailed November 6, 2006.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

No amendment after final has been filed.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

EP 0 889 556	DOUTY	6-1998
2,742,708	McCORMICK	4-1956
4,030,802	LENNON	6-1977

4,820,189

SERGEANT

4-1989

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 4-6 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Douty et al. (EP 0 889 556). Douty discloses the claimed invention comprising:

a terminal block **10** disposed within the laundry dryer control panel, the terminal block including a back portion placed on a control panel **150** and a front portion **168** having a lower part and an uppermost part;

a wall **20, 22, or 26** extending below the terminal block bottom part and above the terminal block uppermost part;

a first wire **192** extending out of the terminal block bottom part; and

a second wire **186** extending out of the terminal block uppermost part wherein the wall extends from the terminal block such that the wall shields an exposed portion of the first wire and the second wire. Douty also discloses the claimed feature wherein the wall covers a first connector coupling the terminal block lower part with a first power wire and a second connector coupling the terminal block upper part with a second power wire from a first side of the terminal block and a second side of the terminal block as shown in figure 6, single body terminal block formation as shown in figure 1, first and second part spacing as shown in figures 4 & 5, and wall size extension as shown in figures 1-6.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 3, 7, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCormick (US 2,742,708) in view of Lennon et al. (US 4,030,802). McCormick discloses the claimed invention comprising:

- base **314** forming a floor;
- a front cabinet **211** forming a front portion of the clothes dryer;
- a side cabinet **218** forming a side portion of the clothes dryer;
- a back cover **214** forming a back side of the clothes dryer
- a top cover **216** provided on a top surface of the front cabinet, the side cabinet and the back cover;

- a control panel **217** provided on a rear portion of the top cover. McCormick discloses the claimed invention except for the claimed terminal block provided on an inside of a control panel, wherein the terminal block comprises a back portion placed on the control panel and a front portion having a wall configured for shielding part exposing a core of a wire extending above an uppermost portion of the front portion and below a bottom portion of the front portion, first and second part spacing, and wall size extension. Lennon, another structure for use in a clothes dryer, discloses a terminal block provided on an inside of a control panel, wherein the terminal block comprises a back portion placed on the control panel and a front portion having a wall configured for shielding part exposing a core of a wire extending above an uppermost portion of the front portion and below a bottom portion of the front portion at column 4 line 42 through column 9 line 11 first and second part spacing as shown in figures 4 & 5, and wall size

Art Unit: 3749

extension as shown in figures 1-6. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of McCormick with the terminal block provided on an inside of the control panel, wherein the terminal block comprises a back portion placed on the control panel and a front portion having a wall configured for shielding part exposing a core of a wire extending above an uppermost portion of the front portion and below a bottom portion of the front portion, considered disclosed in Lennon, for the purpose of improved mounting characteristics within a multiple connector assembly.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCormick in view of Lennon in further view of Sergeant et al. (US 4,820,189). McCormick in view of Lennon discloses the claimed invention, as discussed above under the obviousness rejection, except for the claimed wall for shielding an exposed part of core wire covers a first connector connecting a lower part of the terminal block with a power cord wire and a second connector connecting an upper part of the terminal block with a power cord wire from a front portion of the terminal block and a side portion of the terminal block. Sergeant, another structure for a clothes dryer like appliance, discloses a wall for shielding an exposed part of core wire covers a first connector connecting a lower part of the terminal block with a power cord wire and a second connector connecting an upper part of the terminal block with a power cord wire from a front portion of the terminal block and a side portion of the terminal block at column 4 lines 1-12, first and second part spacing as shown in figures 2, 3 & 5, and wall size extension as shown in figures 2, 3 & 5. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of McCormick in view of Lennon with the wall for shielding

Art Unit: 3749

an exposed part of core wire covers a first connector connecting a lower part of the terminal block with a power cord wire and a second connector connecting an upper part of the terminal block with a power cord wire from a front portion of the terminal block and a side portion of the terminal block, first and second part spacing, and wall size extension, considered disclosed in Sergeant, for the purpose of shielding a covered power cord wire.

(10) Response to Argument

Douty anticipation

Appellants allege the claimed "terminal block disposed within the laundry dryer control panel, the terminal block including a back portion placed on the control panel" is not disclosed in primary reference Douty. That reference expressly discloses a clothes dryer at column 1 line 25 (a clothes dryer anticipates the claimed laundry dryer because both dry laundry clothes) disposed within a cutout **152** of a panel **150** at column 2 line 48 with a back portion placed on the panel as shown in figure 1. To those skilled in the art, the disclosed panel mounted terminal block in a housing of an appliance teaches the claimed control panel because appellant specifics at paragraph [0020] that a control panel is merely a component to which a terminal block may be mounted inside. The claim recitation "control" does not patentably distinguish the claimed panel from the teachings of Douty, because both control electrical components of a clothes dryer. As appellants acknowledge in the brief, "Douty discloses a terminal block in a panel cutout **152** such as a power port of an appliance." This admission shows that the claimed control panel is anticipated by the disclosed power port because both control electrical

components of a clothes dryer. The claimed back portion merely designates a spatial relationship such that a terminal block would have a front and back portion when viewed from various perspectives.

With respect to appellants "wall extending below the terminal block bottom part and above the terminal block uppermost part" arguments, it must be recognized that a plain meaning of the claimed "wall" includes not only the disclosed end wall **26**, skirt **22**, and terminal sites **20**, used in the rejection, but also the disclosed panel **150**, panel mounting periphery **16**, and cover **168**, all which function structurally as the claimed wall, because one or more of those teachings extend below the terminal block bottom part and above the terminal block uppermost part, as shown in Douty figures 1-3 and 6.

Appellants assert that the claimed "first wire extending out of the terminal block bottom part; and a second wire extending out of the terminal block uppermost part wherein the wall extends from the terminal block such that the wall shields portions of exposed cores of the first wire and second wire" define the invention over the prior art. Looking to figures 1, 4, 5, and 6 of Douty, it can be seen that termination site **20**, periphery **16**, or skirt **22** all meet the claimed wall shielding limitations with respect to a first bottom extending power cable or wire **192** and a second uppermost extending internal wire **186**. The terminals, internal wires, and ring tongue sections of Douty anticipate the argued "above and below portions extending exposed cores" because those portions are used to expose wire cores to electrically connect first and second wires. Each portion of the wall, disclosed in Douty, anticipates the claimed invention because portions of "exposed cores" and wall "configured for shielding an exposed part

of a core of a wire extending above an uppermost portion of the front portion and below a bottom portion of the front portion" is shown in that reference. Appellant specifies in paragraphs [0020]-[0023] and [0025], the claimed "exposed cores" and the claimed "wall shields portion" such that it those features are reasonably and broadly construed to be intended to prevent workers from contacting high voltage exposed wires by using walls to shield the current carrying high voltage portion of a wire. To those skilled in the art, Douty teaches a first wire **192** extending out of the terminal block bottom part, as shown in figure 6 at cable wire exit **64**, and a second wire **186** extending out of the terminal block uppermost part, also shown in figure 6, at wire exits **24**, wherein the wall (end wall **26**, skirt **22**, terminal sites **20**, panel **150**, panel mounting periphery **16**, and/or cover **168**,) extends from the terminal block such that the wall shields an exposed portion of the first wire (wherein the disclosed cable conductor or terminal **188** with contact section **194** crimped to internal wire **186** teaches the claimed exposed portion of the first wire) and the second wire (wherein the disclosed plate like contact section **84** of wire terminal **86** teaches the claimed exposed portion of the second wire). The desired result and intended use of shielding exposed wires using walls of a terminal block are expressly disclosed in Douty at column 1 lines 25-49 wherein the terminal block is mounted to a bracket which is in turn mounted to an appliance housing (wall) and connecting power conducting wires (exposed wires) with an inset structure to permit installing a safety cover (wall) and second cover (another wall) in order to enhance safety.

McCormick in view of Lennon obviousness

Appellants argue that McCormick does not teach a control panel. At column 4 lines 69-75, however McCormick expressly discloses heaters controlled by a switched adjusted by a knob **561** located on the back panel **217** and shown in figures 1, 4, and 6. It is recognized that McCormick and Lennon might not teach every element of the claimed invention, but rather that it would have been obvious to teach the claimed invention, as rejected above.

Appellants argue that Lennon does not obviate the teachings of McCormick because the claimed terminal block inside a control panel provided on its back portion are not seen from that reference. Lennon expressly discloses terminal block **11**, as admitted by appellants and a multiple connector assembly for an electrically energized device, such as a sequence timer **13**. These features are used in clothes dryers, as disclosed in column 1 line 25 of Lennon. Again it is recognized that McCormick and Lennon might not teach every element of the claimed invention, but rather that it would have been obvious combine the cabinet structure of McCormick with the terminal block assembly of Lennon for the purpose of improved mounting characteristics within a multiple connector assembly such that it would allow greater ease of removable mounting, plurality of communication means, and quick connect and disconnect terminal block assembly.

Appellants further argue that Lennon does not teach the claimed intended use feature of "a wall configured for shielding part exposing a core of a wire extending above an uppermost portion of the front portion and below a bottom portion of the front

Art Unit: 3749

portion," however Lennon figure 1 teaches a casing **23** at column 5 line 43, support or plate **47** at column 5 line 16, while figure 3 shows walls **43** at column 4 line 65, connecting walls **67** at column 5 line 65, wall **63, 65** at column 5 line 67, and casing faces **57, 67** at column 6 line 1. Each of the these disclosed teaches the claimed wall because all meet the configuration intended use for shielding above and uppermost and below a lower most exposed wire.

The claimed and argued "parts exposing a core of a wire extending above an uppermost portion of the front portion and below a bottom portion of the front portion wire" are answered above such that electrical leads **35** disclose a portion of unexposed wire but also show a portion of exposed wire in figures 4, 5, and 9 electrically connecting the terminal box through female terminals **101, 25, and 201** beginning at column 7 line 55. It is well known that a terminal is part of exposing a wire so electricity can flow through a terminal block. As discussed above, the independently claimed recitation "configured for" is considered to be met in Lennon because it can be seen from figures 2, 3, and 5 that the wall is configured for the intended use as claimed.

McCormick in view of Lennon in view of Sergeant obviousness

It is recognized that McCormick, Lennon, and Sergeant might not teach every element of the claimed invention, but rather that it would have been obvious to teach the claimed invention, as rejected above. Hopkins was a typographical error as noted by appellants and have been corrected in this answer and recognized by appellants based on the assertion of patentability over Hopkins without identifying differences in the claimed invention over the teachings of that reference.

Art Unit: 3749

With respect to Sergeant, it should be recognized that the disclosed terminal block 20 is on the inside back of a control panel as shown in figure 2. The argued "core of wire" is disclosed in secondary reference Lennon, as answered above. Tertiary reference Sergeant merely shows the claimed "power cord wire" not found in claims 1, 3, 7 & 8. The features argued by appellant with respect to shielding and exposed wire connecting coverings are addressed in the first obviousness rejection and answer above.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

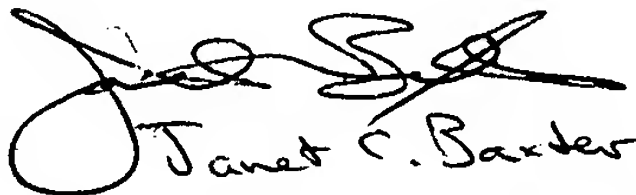
Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Gravini



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